

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/662,068

Examiner

Natalia Figueroa

Applicant(s)

STOVER ET AL

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment (07 April 2005).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 April 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record, and in particular Hinobayashi (JP 02-206010), fails to teach or suggest a method comprising energizing a heating element proximate to a transducer portion of a head during an intermittent period prior to a read or write operation by supplying a signal or current having a relatively low amplitude to provide a relatively low grade thermal response or energization relative to energization of an inductive or write transducer element of the head.

Regarding claim 8, the prior art of record, and in particular Hinobayashi (JP 02-206010), fails to teach or suggest a method comprising having a write signal<sub>write</sub> or a read signal<sub>read</sub> during a first period  $t_0$ - $t_1$  and a write signal<sub>write</sub> or a read signal<sub>read</sub> during a second period  $t_2$ - $t_3$  and providing a signal<sub>heat</sub> or current<sub>heat</sub> to energize a heating element proximate to a transducer portion of a head during an interim period  $t_1$ - $t_2$ .

Regarding claim 11, the prior art of record, and in particular Hinobayashi (JP 02-06010), fails to teach or suggest a method comprising energizing a heating element proximate to a transducer portion of a head during an intermittent period prior to a read or write operation by supplying a signal or current to provide a relatively low grade thermal response to provide

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intermittent heating; and energizing the heating element by supplying a signal or current to provide a higher thermal response prior to a write operation to preheat the head.

Regarding claim 14, the prior art of record, and in particular Hinobayashi (JP 02-06010), fails to teach or suggest a device comprising a heater and a controller coupled to the heater and the controller configured to energize the heater during an intermittent period prior to a read or write operation to provide a relatively low grade thermal response relative to energization of an inductive or write element of the head and operable to de-energize the heater for the read or write operation.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

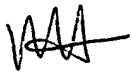
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalia Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7554.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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